

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. It is all the more dangerous as it appears they are presenting a valid news item, which they are not.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. When large companies, with single minded opinions dominate the airwaves, then our democracy is in trouble. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive and varied news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.